



Utah Valley Chapter Newsletter

Chapter Officers

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MAY CHAPTER MEETING

For our closing social on Saturday, May 16th, we plan to travel to Hooper, Utah to see the infamous "Hooper-nacle." Because of the article in the March 1997 chapter newsletter about Hal Stoddard and the organ he built in his barn, several chapter members suggested that we take a trip up to see his "Hooper-nacle."

What a major undertaking this has been for him--to take pipes from other sources and assemble them into a full-functioning pipe organ in his barn! He said he's not finished with the project, but his love of the pipe organ keeps him building and changing and adding new things. He claims he's not a virtuoso on the organ by any means, but has always been fascinated with the instrument.

We plan to meet at 11:00 a.m. in the parking lot west of Cougar Stadium to carpool up to Hooper on the 16th, so that we can arrive by 1:00 p.m. to see the organ. Because we will be carpooling, we need to know how many of you plan to go. **Please** call one of the chapter officers so we can arrange rides. If each of the passengers could chip in a couple of dollars, this would help their driver offset the cost of gas.

What do you need to bring? 1. A lunch (when we've finished, we'd like to go to a local park to eat); 2. Organ shoes and music (Hal has requested that we play whatever we'd like --from a simple hymn to a Bach fugue); 3. If you're driving, a map and these directions: Go up I-15 to the Roy exit. Because of construction on the main road to Hooper, we need to take a slight detour (so what else is new?). Go to the light on 5600 South and turn left (west on the old highway). Go to the main light on 1900 West and turn right. Go north through several lights to 4000 South (look for IOMEGA) in Roy and turn left. Head straight west through Westhaven to 5500 West and turn left to 4200 South and turn right. Hal Stoddard's address is 5577 West 4200 South, Hooper. He said to meet him at the green barn.



We hope that we can get a good turnout since this will be our last AGO meeting.

(Editor's note: Due to unforeseen circumstances the newsletter got out late this month. The editor apologizes if this caused any inconvenience for you.)

MANOOKIN TRIBUTE NIGHT

Thanks to all of you who participated in the inspirational tribute to Robert P. Manookin. Sis. Manookin and many members of her family came and were all deeply moved by our presentation. On April 24, Sis. Manookin wrote the following to us:

"Please express my heart-felt thanks to the Organ Guild Members for last Sunday's lovely program honoring my husband. The selections were so well-chosen and varied and so beautifully performed by all, and so appreciated by me and my family. We were honored and touched by the whole evening and do express our love and appreciation to you all. Love, Helene Manookin"

Coincidentally, on the very morning of our program, the Salt Lake Tabernacle Choir also paid tribute to Bro. Manookin. The whole broadcast was devoted to his music. The choir chose to begin with "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," as did we.

NEW OFFICERS

The officers for the next two years (effective August 1, 1998) are:

President - LuJean Moss

Vice-president - LeeAnn Brockbank

Secretary - Mary Paz

Treasurer - Lee Clark

Newsletter Editor - DeeAnn Stone

Faculty Representative - Dr. Douglas E. Bush

Student Representative - Ross Updegraff

History of the Utah Valley Chapter

Compiled by Dr. Douglas E. Bush

From the 1986-1987 Utah AGO Directory

In the fall of 1979, a group of organists gathered at the home of Ephraim and Verena Hatch in Provo for the purpose of forming a local chapter of AGO. The chapter was named the Utah Valley Chapter, officers were selected with Gerald Dick as the new Dean and a petition was then sent to National Headquarters for official chartering of the Chapter. The Charter was issued October 9, 1979; it was signed by Roberta Bitgood, National President of AGO. Charter members included: Dr. Parley L. Belnap, Michael C. Bigelow, Heidi Brown, Janice Burton, Dr. Douglas E. Bush, Robin Cardon, Don Cook, C. Gerald Dick, Gladys Farmer, Verena Hatch, Lillian Heil, J. J. Keeler, Erla Knudson, Lawrence E. Weidmann, Steven Wright, and Zara Tonks

CHANGES TO OUR CHAPTER

Needs change with time, so with the above history as a backdrop, we, the officers of the Utah Valley Chapter of AGO, would like to announce changes to our chapter. For several years, there has been a decline in membership of the chapter with only a handful of members actively participating. Since our Town Hall Meeting in January of 1997, we have been reflecting on the direction our chapter should go to fulfill the needs of organists.

We feel that in order to reach a wider range of organists, we should place the emphasis of our activities more on service than self-interest. The tremendous response from organists in the valley to the hymn playing workshop in February

indicated that there is a great need for us to be of service to the struggling, nonprofessional organists here. It has been apparent from the outset that our needs in this area are different from those of organists in other areas where most AGO members are trained professionals. Since 90% of the organists here are not paid but willingly give of their time in service to the Lord, it doesn't seem reasonable or logical for them to join a national organization that costs so much money and gives them so little in return.

Because each AGO chapter is governed by specific national bylaws, we have come to the conclusion that in order to better serve Utah Valley organists, we need to create a separate organization. However, we will still maintain a relationship with AGO in order to serve those organists who want this affiliation.

Some of the reasons we feel we need to form the new organization are:

1. We want a name that is less intimidating.
2. Membership dues should be more affordable. AGO has raised dues again for next year, so that it would cost \$40 for the national portion and *The American Organist* magazine, plus \$30 for the chapter portion--for a total of \$70. Our new organization will have a suggested donation of \$25 to pay for the monthly newsletter, refreshments, and other costs. However, members can pay any amount that they could--higher or lower, depending on their circumstances and ability to give support. (The newsletter costs any where from about \$.80 to \$1.50 per person a month, which roughly comes out to be about \$10.00 a year per person.)
3. There should be no implication that one ought to belong to AGO or be able to pass the various AGO membership exams.
4. A local organization will be more suited to local needs and programs.
5. All members will have a voting voice in group activities and affairs, and will not be subject to national AGO guidelines. Officers can also be selected from all members, not just those who pay full AGO dues.
6. The local organization will be able to speak more effectively to the area population, since many do not know or understand the purpose of AGO. AGO often seems to be concerned with "issues" that are not important on the local level.

7. The titles of officers should be changed from Dean and Sub-dean to President and Vice-President, to make them sound more "user friendly." The secretary and newsletter editor designations should be held by two different individuals. We also want no members at large titles but faculty and student representative titles. Registrar will be dropped from the treasurer's title.

In summary, the main differences between the present Guild affiliation and the proposed organization are:

1. All members will be voting members.
2. All members will be eligible to hold office.
3. Fee schedules will more directly benefit the local organization and its members.
4. All members could also choose to belong to AGO, depending on the dues they elect to pay. This would allow these people to receive *The American Organist* magazine, be eligible to take AGO exams, participate in competitions, go to national conventions at a reduced rate, vote on a national level, and be eligible to receive insurance and credit cards through AGO.

The main objective of the new organization will be "to heighten interest in the organ and serve the community." In order for more people to be involved, various committees will be set up with chapter officers overseeing them. The chairman of the committee will ask others to help on the committees, but we would rather have people volunteer to help on whatever committee they choose.

Committees

Workshops--instruction and help, as participants request. (DeeAnn Stone, LeeAnn Brockbank co-chairs). Members help organize and run the workshops.

Resource/libraries--increase materials at libraries; donate money or items such as, recordings, books, published music, etc. (Doug Bush, chairman)

Education--provide adult continuing education classes(night) and youth pipe organ encounters. (Chairman TBA)

Meeting Coordination-- Organize meetings and recitals where we share music, such as favorite preludes and postludes. Arrange for members to play opening hymns and special musical numbers. (LuJean Moss, chairman)

Programs/service--Plan special performances, trips, lectures, etc., and provide help to KBYU with pledge drives. (Chairman TBA)

Name

We would like to give members the opportunity to help choose the name of the organization. Some suggestions for a name are: Society for Friends of the Organ, Organ Friends Society, Utah Valley Organ Friends, Utah Valley Organists, Utah Society of Organists, Utah Organ Society, etc. Do you have another suggestion or do you like one of the above?

The name should clearly define who we are, in the fewest words. The purpose, itself, could be stated in a sub-heading beneath the name--such as Organists Helping Organists; Helping Organists Become Better Organists; Increasing Organ Expertise, Appreciation, and Awareness; etc. Please contact one of the officers with your suggestion.

Proposed meetings for next year will be:

September 15th (Tuesday) - opening social--idea sharing

October 10th (Saturday) - Hymn playing workshop

November 14th (Saturday) - Registration workshop

December 1st (Tuesday) - Presentation to the public library of organ-related materials.

January - Organ encounter for youth

February to May - to be announced

MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO PRESENTS

*Pipedreams***Sundays at 9:00 p.m. on KBYU-FM**

May 17 *Norwegians Would*--Showing imaginations and independence of spirit in observation of "Sittende Mai", a Norwegian sampler with performances by Iver Kleive, Anne-Lise Berntsen, Nils Asheim and Egil Hovland.

May 24 *Back to Boston*--Reminiscences of an American Guild of Organists Convention featuring performances by James Welch, Frederick MacArthur, Diane Belcher, Leo Abbott and others.

May 31 *The Allure of Atlanta*--Premiere performances and other sonically exceptional music for organ, choirs and brasses, presented in southern comfort at a national convention of the American Guild of Organists.



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MUSIC FOR A SUNDAY EVENING

May 17--Ben Crandall, organ

7:00 p.m., Utah State Hospital Chapel, 1300 E. Center, Provo. For more information, contact Claire Rogers 374-5310.

RECITALS

June 10 (Wednesday) - Ruth Ann Hay, organ, 7:30 p.m., Madsen Recital Hall

